SEED INFECTIONS WITH *MACROPHOMINE PHASEOLINE*

Premale Jeyanandarajah
(*Central Agricultural Research Institute, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya*)

Macrophomine Phaseoline, a soil inhabiting fungus particularly common in warm soils, and which attacks a variety of hosts, was recorded on seeds of sixteen crop plants belonging to six families:

Cucurbitacese: *Cucumis sativus* (cucumber), *Luffa acutangulata* (luffa,) *Momordica charantas* (bitter gourd) and *Trichosanthes cucumerina* (snake gourd)

Leguminosae: *Arachis hypoges* (groundnut), *Glycine max* (soybean), *Phaseolus aureus* (greengram), *Phaseolus mungo* (blackgram), *Phaseolus vulgaris* (bush bean and pole bean), *Vigna cylindrice* (me-karal) and *Vigna unguiculata* (cowpea)

Malvaceae: *Hibiscus esculentus* (okrs)

Pedaliaceae: *Sesamum indicum* (gingelly)

Solanaceae: *Solanum melongene* (brinjal)

Umbelliferae: *Coriandrum sativum* (coriander), *Foeniculum vulgare* (fennel)

Infections were detected in seed from crops grown in the following fourteen stations: Alutharame, Ambepussa, Angunukolapelessa, Bandarawela, Bata-ata, Gannoruwa, Karadian Aru, Kilinochchi, Maha Illuppallama, Nedunkerny, Pelwehera, Rahangala, Thirunelvelly and Wagolla.

Infections in the seed samples examined ranged from 2 – 60% in the leguminous crops and 0.3 – 12% in others. Infected seed had sclerotia, pycnidis or both on the seed surface. However, the number of seedlings showing disease symptoms was usually low in comparison with the number of seeds infected. Pycnospores appeared to be more infective as inoculum than sclerotia and mycelia, and temperature appeared to be an important factor influencing primary infection and symptom expression.